

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, UR, US

SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA GOES TO BAT FOR PALESTINIANS

1. POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT V. KUDRYAVTSEV IN A SIGNED COMMENTARY (IZVESTIYA, JUNE 25) CLAIMS THAT THE U.S. AND ISRAEL ARE AVOIDING SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM BECAUSE THEY DO NOT ACCEPT THAT THIS PROBLEM MUST BE SOLVED BEFORE ANY REAL PEACE CAN COME TO THE REGION. KUDRYAVTSEV NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT SOME NON-GOVERNMENTAL CIRCLES IN ISRAEL AND THE U.S. (E.G., FULBRIGHT) ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THE CRITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, AND ARE NOW CALLING FOR POLICIES WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHTS. ALMOST AS AN
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AFTERTHOUGHT, AND PERHAPS PROMPTED BY RECENT WESTERN NEWS STORIES, KUDRYAVTSEV REITERATES MOSCOW'S BELIEF THAT THE PROPER FORUM FOR

REACHING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WOULD BE A RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE.

2. IN THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST TO APPEAR IN SEVERAL WEEKS, KUDRYAVTSEV, A HARD-LINE JOURNALIST WHO WRITES OFTEN ABOUT PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS, SHAKES HIS FINGER AT U.S. AND ISRAELI "RULING CIRCLES" FOR REFUSING TO FACE UP TO THE PROBLEM OF THE PALESTINIANS. HE CLAIMS THAT WITHOUT RESOLVING THIS ISSUE IT IS SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SETTLE THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, AND, FURTHERMORE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE EVEN TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION SERIOUSLY. KUDRYAVTSEV WRITES THAT THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND ITS "ALLIES ACROSS THE SEA" ARE ATTEMPTING TO SIDESTEP THE ISSUE BY PURSUING A POLICY "BUILT ON SAND" OF SEPARATE AGREEMENTS AIMED AT ISOLATING AND EVENTUALLY SUPPRESSING THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

3. THE OUTLOOK IS NOT TOTALLY BLEAK, ACCORDING TO KUDRYAVTSEV, BECAUSE CERTAIN GROUPS WITHIN THE U.S. AND ISRAEL ITSELF ARE BEGINNING TO REALIZE THE KEY ROLE THE PALESTINIANS MUST PLAY IN AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT. IN THIS REGARD HE CITES REMARKS BY FORMER SENATOR FULBRIGHT AND A. ELIAV (PHONETIC), A DEPUTY IN THE ISRAELI KNESSET. KUDRYAVTSEV STRESSES ELIAV'S ALLEGED COMMENTS THAT, FOLLOWING ISRAELI EVACUATION, A PALESTINIAN STATE MIGHT BE CREATED ON THE TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN THE 1967 WAR. KUDRYAVTSEV EMPHASIZES THAT THESE OPINIONS ARE NOT YET HELD BY THE AMERICAN OR ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS, AND HE IMPLIES THAT UNTIL THEY ARE, THE ME WILL REMAIN "EXPLOSIVE." COMMENT: SOVIET PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONCERNING A FUTURE PALESTINIAN STATE GENERALLY DO NOT DISCUSS, EVEN OBLIQUELY, POSSIBLE TERRITORY OF BORDERS; KUDRYAVTSEV'S REFERENCE IS THUS UNUSUAL.

4. KUDRYAVTSEV GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE ONLY "TRUE COURSE" TOWARD PEACE IN THE ME ENTAILS THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM OCCUPIED LANDS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. KUDRYAVTSEV INSISTS SUCH A SOLUTION WOULD PROVE SECURITY FOR ALL, "NOT EXCLUDING THE EXISTING STATES OF THE REGION" (READ ISRAEL). IN CONCLUDING, KUDRYAVTSEV MAKES THE FIRST PUBLIC REFERENCE IN SOME TIME TO SOVIET SUPPORT FOR A NEW MEPC, BUT HE GIVES NO TIMEFRAME NOR DOES HE GO BEYOND PREVIOUS SOVIET STATEMENTS THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THE PLO SHOULD PARTICIPATE ON AN EQUAL BASIS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS AS THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.
STOESSEL

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